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UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED



As a child Joyce Stark (64) from Montrose, Angus, longed to travel to the United States...

My granddad read National Geographic magazine back in the Fifties. I was too young to read, but remember looking at the wonderful pictures. "I'll go there one day!" I told him, pointing at the red rocks in Utah desert. He smiled indulgently: barely anyone we knew owned a car, let alone flew back then!

The covers soon became the focus of my travel dreams – places I wanted to go, things I wanted to see: the drive-through giant redwood 'Chandelier Tree' in California, the presidents' profiles at Mount Rushmore...

Years passed and I pushed them to the back of my mind until 1996, when an old copy reminded me. My husband, Eric (66) and I decided it was time to make them come true and started holidaying in America. Each year we flew to a different area and hired a car to explore.

At 64, I have visited 45 of the

50 states. We mix natural beauty, man-made things of interest, historical and fun places.

When I stood and looked out over Monument Valley in Utah, I closed my eyes and somehow felt sure my granddad was watching me and saying, "Well done, Joycie!"

❖ **Have you followed your dream?** We pay £25 for every story we print (maximum 200 words). Write to Sheena Correa at the address on page 29.